

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9262
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13094

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EG, US, IS
SUBJ: ISRAELI OIL EXPLOITATION IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN
- TERRITORY AND GULF OF SUEZ

REF: CAIRO 12108

1. NABIL ELARABY, MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, HAS ADVISED US THAT DURING UPCOMING VISIT TO U.S. FOR SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, HE PLANS TO RAISE WITH DEPARTMENT POSSIBILITY OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION IN THIS FALL'S UNGA CONDEMNING ISRAELI EXPLOITATION OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES IN OCCUPIED EGYPTIAN TERRITORY AND GULF OF SUEZ. ELARABY EXPLAINED THAT UP TO THIS TIME, UN RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT HAVE DEALT WITH GENERAL SUBJECT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN "OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY." ISRAELIS HAVE NOT TRANSGRESSED OTHER TERRITORY TO DEGREE OF THEIR OPERATIONS IN SINAI AND GULF OF SUEZ AND GOE FEELS IT IMPORTANT FOR GOE'S FUTURE LEGAL POSITION TO HAVE DIRECT CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI ACTIVITIES VIS-A-VIS EGYPT.

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2. ELARABY SAID THAT U.S. POSITION WOULD, OF COURSE, BE CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS OF SUCH RESOLUTION AND HE WANTS TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH DEPARTMENT BEFORE DECIDING TO GO AHEAD WITH IDEA.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN POSITION WITH REGARD TO ISRAELI EXPLOITATION HAS HARDENED CONSIDERABLY, AND PREDICTABLY,

SINCE ISRAELI BEGAN PRODUCTION AT ALMA FIELD. EGYPTIANS
SEE THIS AS ADDED INCENTIVE FOR ISRAELIS NOT TO BE
FLEXIBLE ON RETURN OF SINAI IN SHORT TERM AND THEY VIEW
SITUATION, THEREFORE, AS FONMIN KAMEL DESCRIBED TO
SECRETARY, AS UNDERMINING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT. WE ALSO FIND WHAT APPEARS TO BE EGYPT'S GO-IT-
ALONE POLICY WITH REGARD TO FURTHER ACTION AS SIGNIFICANT
INDICATION OF THEIR CONCERN. IN BOTH THE LETTER TO UN SYG
AND TO SECRETARY VANCE THERE IS LITTLE MORE THAN
PERFUNCTORY MENTION OF RIGHTS OF OTHER ARABS. THIS IS
STRICTLY AN EGYPTIAN INTEREST WHICH IS BEING TRANSGRESSED
AND EGYPTIANS DO NOT WANT TO DIFFUSE CRITICISM BY
REFERENCES TO OTHER ARAB STATES NOT AFFECTED. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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